GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1734
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2000
INTERNET SERVICES
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are permitted to obtain Bandwidth from foreign satellites;

(b) whether the Government are discussing this matter with the Ministry of Information Technology and the Department of Space;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up Internet nodes at every district headquarters in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the details of salient features of National Frequency Allocation Plan 2000;(g) the ratio of public and private sector participation therein, separately; (h) the number of interest and ISDN centres functioning at present in the country, State-wise, location-wise;(i) the names of the authorised Internet Service Providers in the country;(j) whether the Government propose to set up more internet nodes mobile service centres and ISDN centres in the country during 2000-2001; and (k) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, location-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) (b) & (c) Yes, Sir. Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are permitted to obtain bandwidth from foreign satellites which are coordinated over India. This policy has been finalised after discussion with the Department of Space and Ministry of Information Technology.Also a Standing Committee chaired by Department of Space having representatives from Ministry of Information Technology, Department of Telecom Services and Wireless Planning & Co-ordination (WPC) have been set up to give clearance to individual proposals.

(d)&(e) Department of Telecom Service has planned to set up at least one internet node at every secondary switching area of the country. The list is placed at Annexure-I.

(f) National Frequency Allocation Plan - 2000 (NFAP-2000) has been developed which gives details of various frequency bands allocated for different types of radio communication services. Frequency bands, which can be used for various types of applications are also indicated. The NFAP-2000 will form the basis for development, manufacturing and spectrum utilisation activities in the country.

(g) The Plan has been evolved with wide participation from public and private sectors and the frequency bands may be shared between public and private sectors.

(h) The list of Internet and Integrated Service Digital Network (ISDN) centres functioning in the country, statewise and locationwise is placed at Annexure-II & III.

(i) The names of authorised Internet Service Provider in the country is placed at Annexure-IV.

(j) Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to set up more internet nodes, mobile service centre and ISDN centres in the country during 2000-2001;

(k) The Department of Telecom Services has planned to set up at least one internet node at every Secondary Switching Area (SSA) for which procurement of equipment is in progress. These nodes are planned to be commissioned progressively by December 2000. Department has decided to introduce Cellular Mobile Services in the form of a pilot project in 18 cities of the country and it is expected to be implemented during 2000-20001. The list is given at Annexure-V. Suitable guidelines for introduction of ISDN services in the country has been issued. ISDN services are proposed to be introduced in all District Headquarters and other stations, where
(i) Demand exists for provision of such services.
(ii) The local switches (New Technology & Centre for development of Telematics (C-DOT) are capable of supporting ISDN facility.